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RURAL DISTRICT OF CHELTENHAM



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1956.

Public Health Staff:

Medical Officer of Health:

STEPHEN KNIGHT  
M.B., B.S.(Lond). M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector:

E.H. ROSSER  
M.R.I.P.H., M.Inst.P.H.E.,

Additional Public Health Inspectors

L. GROGAN  
Certified Sanitary Inspector  
Certified Inspector of Meats and Food.

F.H. LEWIS  
Certified Sanitary Inspector

J.H. WRIGHT M.B.E., M.R.S.H., F.S.I.A., (Part-time)



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# I N D E X

|                                                                                       | <u>Page</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <u>Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area</u> ..                                | 2           |
| <br><u>Extracts from vital statistics for the year</u>                                |             |
| Live Births .. .. .                                                                   | 2           |
| Still Births, .. .. .                                                                 | 2           |
| Deaths .. .. .                                                                        | 2           |
| No. 30, Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion                                   | 2           |
| Deaths of infants under one year of age (Infantile Mortality)                         | 2           |
| Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age (Neonatal Mortality)                           | 3           |
| Population .. .. .                                                                    | 3           |
| Birth Rate, .. .. .                                                                   | 3           |
| Death Rate .. .. .                                                                    | 3           |
| Infant Mortality .. .. .                                                              | 3           |
| Cancer .. .. .                                                                        | 3           |
| Causes of Death .. .. .                                                               | 4           |
| Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates in the District for the last five years .. | 4           |
| <br><u>Infectious Diseases</u>                                                        |             |
| Infectious Diseases notified during 1955 (excluding Tuberculosis) .. .. .             | 5           |
| Scarlet Fever .. .. .                                                                 | 5           |
| Diphtheria and immunisation .. .. .                                                   | 5           |
| Whooping cough .. .. .                                                                | 6           |
| Measles .. .. .                                                                       | 6           |
| Poliomyelitis .. .. .                                                                 | 6           |
| Food poisoning .. .. .                                                                | 6           |
| Vaccination against Smallpox .. .. .                                                  | 6           |
| Tuberculosis                                                                          |             |
| New Cases .. .. .                                                                     | 7           |
| Deaths .. .. .                                                                        | 7           |
| Tuberculosis Register .. .. .                                                         | 7           |
| <br><u>Public Health.</u>                                                             |             |
| Food and Drugs Act, 1938 - Clean Food ..                                              | 7           |
| Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 ..                                                     | 8           |
| <u>National Assistance Acts</u> .. .. .                                               | 8           |
| <br><u>General Provisions for Health Services</u>                                     |             |
| Laboratory Facilities .. .. .                                                         | 8           |
| Home Help Service .. .. .                                                             | 8           |
| Nursing in the Home .. .. .                                                           | 9           |
| Child Welfare Centres .. .. .                                                         | 9           |
| <br><u>Sanitary Circumstances of the Area</u>                                         |             |
| Progress in dealing with Unfit Houses ..                                              | 9           |
| Water Supply .. .. .                                                                  | 10          |

Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

|                                                 | <u>page</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Housing .. ... ..                               | 11          |
| Applications for Housing Accommodation .. ..    | 11          |
| Temporary Housing .. ..                         | 12          |
| Repairs to Council Houses .. ..                 | 12          |
| Other activities in Housing .. ..               | 13          |
| Clearance Orders and Individual Unfit Houses .. | 13/14       |
| Housing Acts .. ..                              | 14          |
| Improvement Grants .. ..                        | 15          |
| Building Byelaws .. ..                          | 15          |
| Public Health . ..                              | 16          |
| Inspection of Foods .. ..                       | 17          |
| Methods of Disposal of Condemned Food ..        | 18          |
| Food Premises .. ..                             | 18          |
| Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Section 16(1) ..     | 18          |
| Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 - 1954 ..    | 18          |
| Tents, Vans and Sheds .. ..                     | 19          |
| Factories Act, 1937 .. ..                       | 19          |
| Sewage Disposal .. ..                           | 19          |
| Water Supplies .. ..                            | 19          |
| Refuse and Salvage .. ..                        | 20          |
| Public Rights of Way .. ..                      | 20          |
| Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928 ..          | 20          |
| Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 ..      | 20/21       |
| Loans for House Purchase .. ..                  | 21          |
| Summary .. ..                                   | 21/22       |

CHELTENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Cheltenham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1956 on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District.

Mr. E.H. Rosser, Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, gives an account of the work of his department and on the Council's Water Undertaking, sewerage and sewage disposal.

The health statistics are again favourable to the Rural District, in particular the infantile mortality, which is at the rate of 15.4 deaths of infants under one year of age for every 1,000 births. This rate is the lowest ever recorded in the Rural District.

Financial restrictions still cause delay in the Council's schemes for sewerage which are so necessary in many parts of the District.

Houses now being built by the Council are for families to be re-housed from unfit dwellings. Progress in dealing with unfit dwellings is in accordance with the 8 year programme agreed by the Minister.

I am glad to be able to take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council and the Staff for their help and co-operation afforded during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT

Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1957.

# CHELTHENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

|                                                                                                |    |    |    |              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|--------------|
| Area (in acres)                                                                                | .. | .. | .. | 81,940       |
| Registrar-General's estimate of mid-year population<br>(including members of the Armed Forces) | .. | .. | .. | 27,380       |
| Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1956)                                                       | .. | .. | .. | 8,242        |
| Rateable Value (at 31.3.57)                                                                    | .. | .. | .. | £374,934.    |
| Sum represented by a penny rate (at 1956/57)                                                   | .. | .. | .. | £1,564.12.5. |

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

#### LIVE BIRTHS

|                                        |    |    |    |      | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|----------------------------------------|----|----|----|------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Legitimate                             | .. | .. | .. | ..   | 440          | 233         | 207           |
| Illegitimate                           | .. | .. | .. | ..   | 16           | 10          | 6             |
| Total                                  | .. | .. | .. | ..   | 456          | 243         | 213           |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population |    |    |    | 16.7 |              |             |               |
| Area Comparability Factor (Births)     |    |    |    | 1.02 |              |             |               |
| Corrected Birth Rate (16.7 x 1.02)     |    |    |    | 17.0 |              |             |               |

#### STILL BIRTHS

|                                                             |    |    |    |      |   |   |   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|------|---|---|---|
| Legitimate                                                  | .. | .. | .. | ..   | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| Illegitimate                                                | .. | .. | .. | ..   | - | - | - |
| Total                                                       | .. | .. | .. | ..   | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population                |    |    |    | 0.22 |   |   |   |
| Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and<br>still births) |    |    | .. | 13.0 |   |   |   |

#### DEATHS

|                                        |    |    |    |      |     |     |     |
|----------------------------------------|----|----|----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Deaths                                 | .. | .. | .. | ..   | 302 | 130 | 172 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 of the population |    |    |    | 11.0 |     |     |     |
| Area Comparability Factor (Deaths)     |    |    |    | 1.06 |     |     |     |
| Corrected Death Rate (11.0 x 1.06)     |    |    |    | 11.7 |     |     |     |

#### No.30, DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, ABORTION

|                                                |    |    |    |    |     |
|------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Deaths                                         | .. | .. | .. | .. | nil |
| Deaths per 1,000 total (live and still) births |    |    |    |    | nil |

#### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Infantile Mortality)

|                                   |    |    |    |      |   |   |   |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|------|---|---|---|
| Legitimate                        | .. | .. | .. | ..   | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| Illegitimate                      | .. | .. | .. | ..   | - | - | - |
| Total                             | .. | .. | .. | ..   | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| All infants per 1,000 Live Births |    |    |    | 15.4 |   |   |   |

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE  
(Neonatal Mortality)

|                                               |    |    |    |    | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female.</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| Legitimate                                    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4            | 3           | 1              |
| Illegitimate                                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | -            | -           | -              |
|                                               |    |    |    |    | <hr/>        | <hr/>       | <hr/>          |
| Total                                         | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4            | 3           | 1              |
| Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births |    |    |    |    | 8.8          |             |                |

POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for 1956 is 27,380 and shews an increase of 1,410 over that for 1955.

The natural increase in the population, excess of births over deaths, was 154.

In the post-war period the population of the Rural District has increased by over 8,000.

BIRTH RATE

During the year there were 456 births as against 448 in 1955 making the Birth Rate 16.7. As in previous years the Birth Rate for the Rural District compares favourably with that for the country as a whole 15.7.

DEATH RATE

The deaths in 1956 were 302, forty-one more than 1955 but the Death Rate 11.0 although higher than last year, is still lower than 11.7 the rate for England and Wales.

INFANT MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was seven, making the infantile mortality rate 15.4 per 1,000 live births.

This rate is very much lower than 24.5 for 1955 and is the lowest ever recorded in the Rural District and as might be expected, it is also lower than the corresponding rate 23.8 for England and Wales.

It is most gratifying that the infantile mortality should be so low, but the infantile deaths now are so few that even in a District such as ours with a population of 27,380, one death can cause considerable fluctuation in this mortality rate.

CANCER

Fifty-two people died of cancer, six more than in 1955. Twenty were men, six of them dying of cancer of the lung. Thirty-two women died of cancer, but none from cancer of the lung.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The causes of death in the following table are classified under the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification :

|                                              | .. | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female.</u> |
|----------------------------------------------|----|-------------|----------------|
| 1. Tuberculosis, respiratory                 | .. | 2           | 0              |
| 2. Tuberculosis, other                       | .. | 0           | 0              |
| 3. Syphilitic disease                        | .. | 1           | 0              |
| 4. Diphtheria                                | .. | 0           | 0              |
| 5. Whooping cough                            | .. | 0           | 0              |
| 6. Meningococcal infections                  | .. | 0           | 0              |
| 7. Acute poliomyelitis                       | .. | 0           | 0              |
| 8. Measles                                   | .. | 0           | 0              |
| 9. Other infective and parasitic diseases    | .. | 0           | 2              |
| 10. Malignant neoplasms, stomach             | .. | 7           | 3              |
| 11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus       | .. | 6           | 0              |
| 12. Malignant neoplasm, breast               | .. | 0           | 5              |
| 13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus               | .. | 0           | 3              |
| 14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms  | .. | 7           | 21             |
| 15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia                    | .. | 2           | 0              |
| 16. Diabetes                                 | .. | 1           | 2              |
| 17. Vascular lesions of nervous system       | .. | 14          | 21             |
| 18. Coronary disease, angina                 | .. | 22          | 20             |
| 19. Hypertension with heart disease          | .. | 4           | 3              |
| 20. Other heart disease                      | .. | 27          | 37             |
| 21. Other circulatory disease                | .. | 3           | 8              |
| 22. Influenza                                | .. | 1           | 1              |
| 23. Pneumonia                                | .. | 6           | 8              |
| 24. Bronchitis                               | .. | 4           | 4              |
| 25. Other diseases of the respiratory system | .. | 2           | 3              |
| 26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum            | .. | 1           | 1              |
| 27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea       | .. | 0           | 0              |
| 28. Nephritis and nephrosis                  | .. | 1           | 0              |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate                  | .. | 3           | 0              |
| 30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion          | .. | 0           | 0              |
| 31. Congenital malformations                 | .. | 3           | 1              |
| 32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases   | .. | 6           | 20             |
| 33. Motor vehicle accidents                  | .. | 2           | 3              |
| 34. All other accidents                      | .. | 3           | 4              |
| 35. Suicide                                  | .. | 2           | 2              |
| 36. Homicide and operations of war           | .. | 0           | 0              |
| All causes                                   | .. | 130         | 172            |

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES IN THE DISTRICT  
FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

|                                                                                 | <u>1952</u> | <u>1953</u> | <u>1954</u> | <u>1955</u> | <u>1956</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)                                               | 16.5        | 15.7        | 17.6        | 17.3        | 16.7        |
| Death Rate ( -do- )                                                             | 10.0        | 8.7         | 9.1         | 10.1        | 11.0        |
| Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live Births) Deaths of Infants under 1 yr.  | 27.8        | 31.0        | 23.0        | 24.5        | 15.4        |
| Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live Births) Deaths of Infants under 1 month | 12.6        | 13.0        | 16.0        | 22.3        | 8.8         |

For comparison, the Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates for England and Wales etc., are given overleaf.

|                                                                                  | England & Wales | County of Glos. | Cheltenham R.D. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Birth Rate                                                                       | 15.7            | 16.17           | 16.7            |
| Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births)                                        | 23.0            | 22.27           | 13.0            |
| Death Rate (per 1,000 population)                                                | 11.7            | 11.78           | 11.0            |
| Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths of infants under 1 year)(per 1,000 live births) | 23.8            | 19.83           | 15.4            |
| Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths of infants under 1 month)(per 1,000 live births) |                 | 13.99           | 8.8             |

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1956,  
(excluding Tuberculosis)

|                | Under 1 yr. |    | 1 - 5 |    | 5 -15 |    | 15-25 |    | 25 and over |    | Total |    |
|----------------|-------------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------------|----|-------|----|
|                | M.          | F. | M.    | F. | M.    | F. | M.    | F. | M.          | F. | M.    | F. |
| Scarlet Fever  | -           | 1  | 1     | 4  | 6     | 8  | -     | -  | -           | -  | 7     | 13 |
| Diphtheria     | -           | -  | -     | -  | -     | -  | -     | -  | -           | -  | -     | -  |
| Whooping cough | 3           | 1  | 6     | 6  | 7     | 15 | -     | -  | -           | -  | 16    | 22 |
| Measles        | 1           | -  | 51    | 37 | 50    | 60 | -     | 2  | -           | -  | 102   | 99 |
| Poliomyelitis  |             |    |       |    |       |    |       |    |             |    |       |    |
| Paralytic      | -           | -  | -     | 1  | -     | 1  | -     | -  | -           | -  | -     | 2  |
| Non-paralytic  | -           | -  | -     | -  | -     | -  | -     | -  | -           | -  | -     | -  |

  

|                      | Under 5 yrs. |    | 5 -14 |    | 15-44 |    | 45-64 |    | 65 and over |    | Total |    |
|----------------------|--------------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------------|----|-------|----|
|                      | M.           | F. | M.    | F. | M.    | F. | M.    | F. | M.          | F. | M.    | F. |
| Pneumonia            | -            | -  | 2     | 1  | 1     | -  | -     | -  | -           | -  | 3     | 1  |
| Erysipelas           | -            | -  | -     | -  | -     | -  | -     | -  | -           | 1  | -     | 1  |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever | -            | -  | -     | -  | -     | -  | -     | -  | -           | -  | -     | -  |
| Dysentery            | -            | -  | -     | 2  | -     | -  | -     | -  | -           | -  | -     | 2  |
| Puerperal Pyrexia    | -            | -  | -     | -  | -     | 2  | -     | -  | -           | -  | -     | 2  |

Scarlet Fever

The incidence of scarlet fever was again slight, only 20 cases were notified. The disease continued to be of a mild character, all the patients were isolated at home, in keeping with modern practice which did not give rise to spread of the disease.

Diphtheria

Again no cases were notified.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to the 31st December, 1956 :

| Age at 31.12.56<br>(i.e. born in year) | Under 1 yr.<br>1956. | 1.<br>1955 | 2.<br>1954 | 3.<br>1953 | 4.<br>1952 | 5 - 9<br>1947/51 | 10 - 14<br>1942/46 |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Number immunised                       | 79                   | 273        | 273        | 335        | 402        | 1617             | 1000               |
| Total No. immunised                    |                      | ..         | ..         | ..         | ..         |                  | 3979               |

|                                |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| No. of children immunised in : | <u>1956</u> | <u>1955</u> | <u>1954</u> | <u>1953</u> | <u>1952</u> | <u>1951</u> | <u>1950</u> |
| Primary                        | 368         | 317         | 328         | 445         | 416         | 429         | 209         |
| Maintenance                    | 380         | 324         | 133         | 211         | 311         | 247         | 166         |

368 children were immunised against diphtheria in 1956, being fifty-one more than in 1955, and 187 of these were babies under one year of age.

Although the position with regard to immunisation against diphtheria has improved, it still falls far short of the target of the campaign, immunisation of 75 per cent of babies under one year of age.

### Whooping Cough

Thirty-eight cases were notified, none was fatal.

An increasing proportion of babies are being vaccinated against whooping cough, the protection is especially valuable in the case of very young infants and ailing children.

### Measles

Two hundred and one cases of measles were notified. There were no deaths. Although the number of cases is large, it is much lower than in 1955 when 419 cases were notified. As the disease has a biennial incidence, this fluctuation is to be expected.

### Poliomyelitis

Two cases of poliomyelitis were notified, both being the paralytic form. Children between two years and nine years of age were registered for vaccination against poliomyelitis. The acceptance rate was thirty-eight per cent. A small quantity of vaccine, sufficient for one in ten of those who accepted, was made available during the year.

### Food Poisoning

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning and no cases were notified. This record reflects credit on food hygiene and food handling in the District.

### VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The following table sets out the details of the records of vaccination received during the year :

| Age :          | <u>Under<br/>1 yr.</u> | <u>1 yr.</u> | <u>2 - 4<br/>yrs.</u> | <u>5 - 14<br/>yrs.</u> | <u>15 yrs<br/>&amp; over</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Vaccination    | 192                    | 10           | 5                     | 16                     | 16                           | 229          |
| Re-vaccination | 1                      | -            | 1                     | 4                      | 12                           | 18           |

Proportion of children vaccinated under one year of age, expressed as a percentage of the number of births during the year :

| <u>1951</u> | <u>1952</u> | <u>1953</u> | <u>1954</u> | <u>1955</u> | <u>1956.</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 32          | 33          | 38          | 31          | 34          | 42           |
| - 6 -       |             |             |             |             |              |

It is gratifying to note that the number of children vaccinated has increased and that the percentage of vaccinated babies under one year of age is now 42 per cent. Vaccinated people are the barrier to the spread of smallpox when the disease is introduced in this country.

### TUBERCULOSIS

#### New Cases

|                   |    | Children |         | All persons |
|-------------------|----|----------|---------|-------------|
|                   |    | 0 - 4,   | 5 - 14, |             |
| Respiratory       | .. | ..       | 2       | 11          |
| Meninges & C.N.S. | .. | ..       | -       | 1           |
| Other forms       | .. | ..       | -       | -           |

#### Deaths

|                    |    |    |    |   |
|--------------------|----|----|----|---|
| Respiratory        | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Meninges & C.N.S., | .. | .. | .. | - |
| Other forms        | .. | .. | .. | - |

#### Tuberculosis Register

The number of cases on the register, 31st December, 1956 was as follows :-

| Respiratory |        |       | Central Nervous System |        |       | Other Forms |        |       | All forms |
|-------------|--------|-------|------------------------|--------|-------|-------------|--------|-------|-----------|
| Male        | Female | Total | Male                   | Female | Total | Male        | Female | Total | Total     |
| 93          | 54     | 147   | 2                      | 1      | 3     | 17          | 18     | 35    | 185       |

Twelve new cases of tuberculosis were notified, eleven of them pulmonary. Although this number is greater than the nine notified in 1955, there is no undue incidence of the disease.

Two persons died of pulmonary tuberculosis. If full use can be made of the preventative measures available, tuberculosis may be eliminated in the course of a generation.

Two important instruments in the prevention of tuberculosis are Mass Radiography and B.C.G. vaccination of 13 year old school children.

More and more parents are asking for their children to be vaccinated with B.C.G. vaccine. In this way the adolescent is protected at a time of life when he is likely to fall a victim of the disease.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

#### Food and Drugs Act, 1938, - Clean Food.

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 are in force for securing hygienic methods in the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food, and Sale of Food in the open air.

Food shops and similar establishments are inspected regularly to ensure that the food is wholesome and that the premises comply with requirements.

## Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

These Regulations made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, replace Section 13 of the 1938 Act, as the principal law relating to food hygiene.

The application of these new Regulations is much more extensive in that they apply, generally speaking, not only to food shops, but to all "food businesses", and include canteens, clubs, schools and so on.

In the main, the Regulations came into force on the 1st January, 1956, and are designed to prevent contamination of food. Those requirements dealing with structural alterations, e.g., the provision of sinks, washbasins etc., did not become operative until the 1st July, 1956.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47 : removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

Section 1.

An old man living alone in a derelict railway coach was removed to hospital by means of an Order made under this Section.

He had been visited from time to time over a number of years. Although, when he became bedridden he refused to go to hospital voluntarily, he seemed relieved that the matter had been taken out of his hands.

### Home Help Service. (for the Aged)

The Home Help Service continues to be of great value in rendering timely assistance to old people living alone and so enabling them to carry on.

In a few cases the Home Help Assistance would have been inadequate, and so, after persuasion, the old people agreed to be admitted to hospital.

### GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES.

#### Laboratory Facilities.

Samples of water, milk and ice-cream and pathological specimens are sent for bacteriological analysis to the Public Health Laboratory, Walton Street, Oxford. The laboratory is part of the Public Health Laboratory Service of the Ministry of Health, and no charge is made for making use of its services.

Chemical examination of specimens is undertaken by Messrs. Ellis and Turner, Public Analysts, Gloucester.

#### Home Help Service.

This service is organised by the County Council, and a charge is made according to a scale of assessment.

The Home Help takes over the running of the home where the housewife is temporarily incapacitated through illness.

As noted elsewhere, the Service is very useful to old people who can no longer manage because of infirmity.

Appeals for assistance from the Home Help Service should be made to the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Charlton Kings (telephone No. : Cheltenham 55746).

### Nursing in the Home.

The area is covered by the District Nursing Association under the control of the County Council. Information is available from the Council Offices or the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Charlton Kings. (Tel. No. 55746).

### CHILD WELFARE CENTRES. (Gloucestershire County Council)

|                                    |    |    |                             |
|------------------------------------|----|----|-----------------------------|
| Apperley                           | .. | .. | 2nd Wednesday, 4th Thursday |
| Ashchurch (Northway Church Centre) |    |    | Alternate Tuesdays          |
| Bishops Cleeve                     | .. | .. | Each Wednesday              |
| Dumbleton                          | .. | .. | 4th Friday                  |
| Lockhampton                        | .. | .. | Each Friday                 |
| Prestbury                          | .. | .. | Each Tuesday                |
| The Reddings                       | .. | .. | 2nd & 4th Thursdays         |
| Shurdington                        | .. | .. | 1st & 3rd Wednesdays        |
| Stanway                            | .. | .. | 2nd Friday                  |
| Stoke Orchard                      | .. | .. | Alternate Tuesdays          |
| Swindon Village (Mobile Unit)      |    |    | 2nd Tuesday                 |
| Twynning                           | .. | .. | 2nd Thursday                |
| Winchcombe                         | .. | .. | Alternate Tuesdays          |
| Witcombe & Bentham                 |    | .. | 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.       |

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### Progress in dealing with unfit houses. (Housing Act, 1936)

During the year the Council made good progress with the first instalment of its programme for dealing with unfit houses in the area.

Forty-five dwellings were dealt with in the parish of Deerhurst, 15 under Section 25 of the Act, and three Clearance Areas, and the remaining 30 under Section 11 as individual unfit houses. A further 14 houses in other parishes were the subject of representation under Section 11 on grounds of their urgency or in order to prevent re-occupation of unfit dwellings from which the tenants had been re-housed.

The number dealt with within the first year exceeds by 18 the target of 41 houses per annum set for us by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

One Clearance Area has been confirmed by the Ministry in its entirety, one has been confirmed in part and the Minister's decision is awaited on the third.

By the end of the year, owners of the 44 individual unfit houses had been given an opportunity to submit to the Council their proposals for the improvement or future use of the dwellings.

Only 16 Demolition Orders were made, in 22 cases suitable undertakings were accepted by the Council.

A detailed summary of the action taken in these cases appears in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

# WATER SUPPLY

Part of the Rural District is within the supply areas of the Gloucester and Cheltenham Corporation's water undertakings.

The Council's supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality. All the supplies are chlorinated.

Twenty-one samples were taken for bacteriological analysis, and one sample for chemical examination; in addition four bacteriological samples were taken from private supplies.

|                                                                             | No. of<br>Houses | No. of Houses<br>supplied<br>direct into<br>house: | No. of Houses<br>supplied<br>by means of<br>standpipe |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Alderton .. ..                                                              | 136              | 126                                                | -                                                     |
| Ashchurch (incl. Aston Cross, Aston-<br>on-Carrant, Fiddington & Pamington) | 410              | 369                                                | -                                                     |
| Badgeworth (incl. Bentham and<br>The Reddings) .. ..                        | 463              | 383                                                | -                                                     |
| Boddington (incl. Hayden) .. ..                                             | 83               | 82                                                 | -                                                     |
| Bishops Cleeve. .. ..                                                       | 1,143            | 1,129                                              | -                                                     |
| + Buckland (incl. Laverton) .. ..                                           | 76               | 69                                                 | 7                                                     |
| Coberley .. ..                                                              | 82               | 26                                                 | -                                                     |
| + Cowley (Birdlip public, Cowley<br>private supply) .. ..                   | 99               | 76                                                 | -                                                     |
| Deerhurst (incl. Apperley and<br>Walton Hill) .. ..                         | 202              | 130                                                | -                                                     |
| + Dumbleton (incl. Gt. Washbourne,<br>Little Washbourne & Wormington)       | 173              | ( 94 (public) -<br>67 (private)                    | -                                                     |
| Elmstone Hardwicke .. ..                                                    | 66               | 56                                                 | -                                                     |
| Gotherington .. ..                                                          | 131              | 114                                                | -                                                     |
| + Great Witcombe .. ..                                                      | 31               | 31                                                 | -                                                     |
| Hawling .. ..                                                               | 51               | 38                                                 | -                                                     |
| Leigh, (incl. Coombe Hill) .. ..                                            | 95               | 93                                                 | -                                                     |
| Leckhampton .. ..                                                           | 760              | 710                                                | -                                                     |
| Oxenton (incl. Woolstone) .. ..                                             | 50               | 33                                                 | -                                                     |
| + Prescott .. ..                                                            | 31               | 23                                                 | -                                                     |
| Prestbury .. ..                                                             | 1,108            | 1,041                                              | -                                                     |
| Shurdington .. ..                                                           | 310              | 271                                                | -                                                     |
| Snowhill .. ..                                                              | 71               | 40                                                 | -                                                     |
| Southam .. ..                                                               | 140              | 140                                                | -                                                     |
| Stanton .. ..                                                               | 87               | 87                                                 | -                                                     |
| Stanway .. ..                                                               | 140              | 138                                                | -                                                     |
| Staverton .. ..                                                             | 122              | 114                                                | -                                                     |
| Stoke Orchard (incl. Tredington)                                            | 173              | 166                                                | -                                                     |
| + Sudeley (incl. Charlton Abbotts)                                          | 43               | 33                                                 | -                                                     |
| Swindon (incl. Brockhampton)                                                | 114              | 107                                                | -                                                     |
| Teddington (incl. Abstone) .. ..                                            | 54               | 54                                                 | -                                                     |
| Toddington .. ..                                                            | 141              | 130                                                | -                                                     |
| Twynning .. ..                                                              | 261              | 124                                                | -                                                     |
| Uckington .. ..                                                             | 101              | 97                                                 | -                                                     |
| Up Hatherley .. ..                                                          | 50               | 49                                                 | -                                                     |
| Walton Cardiff .. ..                                                        | 15               | 15                                                 | -                                                     |
| Winchcombe (incl. Gretton & Greet)                                          | 957              | 940                                                | 3                                                     |
| Woodmancote .. ..                                                           | 273              | 266                                                | -                                                     |
|                                                                             | 8,242            | 7,462                                              | 10                                                    |

+ Private or part private piped supplies.

CHELTENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report by Public Health Inspector and Surveyor,  
on the work of his Department for the Year 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have again the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the Department for which I am responsible to the Council.

The activities of the Council have continued to increase and in the succeeding part of the report it is proposed to deal with various duties under separate headings, unless they have already been dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING.

The provision of housing accommodation is still a very important task for the Council, but does appear to be less acute than at any time since the end of hostilities in 1945. The number of completed private houses rose to 365 in 1956, as against 326 in 1955, and the number in course of erection had risen to 263 plus 17 for the Dowty Housing Association.

The total number of houses completed in the District totalled 425, and based on an average of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  persons per house, this means that 1,487 persons have been provided with permanent accommodation during the year.

The efforts of this Council have been directed to providing housing at Ashchurch, Bishops Cleeve, Leckhampton and Shurdington. These are the main centres of population, and where the Council owned sites with services available.

The list of applications for houses is less than a year ago. The number of houses erected by private enterprise shewed, as anticipated, an increase during the year, and the rate continues to be maintained.

Applications for Housing Accommodation

Ordinary applications :-

|                               |    |           |     |
|-------------------------------|----|-----------|-----|
| a. living in the District     | .. | 254       |     |
| b. not living in the District | .. | <u>85</u> | 339 |

Families occupying dwellings on temporary estates :-

|                            |    |           |     |
|----------------------------|----|-----------|-----|
| a. The Park, Stoke Orchard | .. | 31        |     |
| b. Chargrove Grounds       | .. | 1         |     |
| c. Witcombe Grounds        | .. | <u>42</u> | 124 |

The occupation of caravans is still increasing and more licensed sites came into use during the year.

## Temporary Housing.

At the end of the year 1956, the Council still controlled accommodation on former camp sites at The Park, Stoke Orchard, Shurdington and Witcombe; the site at Shurdington was practically cleared. The policy of the Council has been to re-house the families who have been on these sites for a long time. When the families are rehoused the buildings are sold in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The following figures will illustrate the work involved in dealing with these sites :-

|                                                             | Year ending | 31.12.55 | 31.12.56 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| No. of dwellings .. ..                                      | .. ..       | 147      | 124      |
| No. of Repair Orders completed by Contractors .. ..         | .. ..       | 117      | 144      |
| No. of Repair Orders completed by the Council's staff .. .. | .. ..       | 257      | 161      |
| No. of visits .. ..                                         | .. ..       | 424      | 479      |

From the above figures it will be noted that although the number of dwellings has reduced the repairs have increased.

### Repairs to Council Houses

Repairs to Council Houses are generally carried out by direct labour, and at the end of the year we employed a total of eleven men upon this work (not including the part time of the Foremen). The following figures shew the work carried out :-

|                                                                                                                                   | Year ending | 31.12.55 | 31.12.56 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| No. of houses repairable by the Council at the end of the year (others will be released from Contractors from time to time) .. .. | .. ..       | 1083     | 1223     |
| No. of Repair Orders completed by the Council's staff (an order may contain several items)                                        |             | 1755     | 1424     |
| No. of Repair Orders completed by Contractors including electricity and gas ..                                                    | ..          | 546      | 836      |
| Total .. ..                                                                                                                       | .. ..       | 2,301    | 2,260    |
| No. of houses overhauled and redecorated externally :                                                                             |             |          |          |
| a. by Contract ..                                                                                                                 | ..          | 193      | 213      |
| b. by direct labour ..                                                                                                            | ..          | 26       | 18       |
|                                                                                                                                   |             | 219      | 231      |
| No. of houses redecorated internally on change of tenancy .. ..                                                                   | .. ..       | 1        | 2        |
| No. of tiled surround fireplaces fitted ..                                                                                        |             | 25       | 33       |
| No. of defective draining boards replaced                                                                                         |             | 25       | 33       |
| No. of defective sets of firebricks replaced                                                                                      |             | 19       | 21       |

|                                                                            | Year Ending : | <u>31.12.55</u> | <u>31.12.56</u> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| No. of defective firebaskets replaced. ..                                  |               | 50              | 69 .            |
| No. of defective firebars to ranges replaced                               |               | 36              | 11              |
| No. of defective sinks replaced. ..                                        |               | 5               | 5               |
| No. of defective sanitary pails replaced..                                 |               | 15              | 4               |
| No. of W.C. pans replaced. .. ..                                           |               | 22              | 23              |
| No. of defective taps replaced. ..                                         |               | 9               | 5               |
| No. of defective flush boxes replaced ..                                   |               | 4               | 3               |
| No. of defective chimney pots replaced. ..                                 |               | 9               | 4               |
| No of defective lavatory basins replaced.                                  |               | 2               | 2               |
| No. of defective W.C. seats replaced. ..                                   |               | 46              | 35              |
| No. of portable coal fired coppers replaced.                               |               | 8               | 8               |
| No. of gate posts renewed .. ..                                            |               | 13              | 12              |
| No. of roofs repaired. .. ..                                               |               | 167             | 65              |
| No. of eaves gutters repaired... ..                                        |               | 49              | 39              |
| No. of visits to Council Houses for various purposes .. ..                 |               | 2,908           | 3,940           |
| No. of cases where damage has been repaired at the tenant's expense. .. .. |               | 21              | 10              |
| No. of applications to erect television aerials dealt with. .. ..          |               | 127             | 155             |

#### Other Activities in Housing.

Further progress in dealing with unfit houses has been made in accordance with the programme approved by the Ministry. The policy adopted is to deal, each year, with all category five houses in a selected portion of the District. By this method the Council will eventually know the number of families requiring to be rehoused in that area, and from this information, the size of the site for new houses can be estimated. Following these lines, it was decided to deal with the Parishes of Alderton, Ashchurch and Stoke Orchard in the second year. The properties concerned were re-inspected and by the end of the year the necessary information had been collected in almost all cases in readiness for taking the action required by the Housing Acts.

During the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government held an inquiry into the Clearance Areas for the Parish of Deerhurst, and the following table gives an analysis of the houses dealt with during the year :-

| <u>As Clearance Areas -</u>                          | <u>No. of Houses</u> |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Deerhurst No. 1 Area (4 almshouses and 2 others)     | 6                    |
| Deerhurst No. 2 Area (1 to 5, The Yard, Walton Hill) | 5                    |
| Deerhurst No. 3 Area (4 cottages at Salters Hill)    | 4                    |
| Total in Clearance Areas                             | <u>15</u>            |

## As Individual Unfit Houses.

|                      |    |    |    | No. of<br>Houses |
|----------------------|----|----|----|------------------|
| Parish of Deerhurst. | .. | .. | .. | 30               |
| Shurdington          | .. | .. | .. | 6                |
| Winchcombe           | .. | .. | .. | 3                |
| Ashchurch            | .. | .. | .. | 2                |
| Badgeworth           | .. | .. | .. | 2                |
| Bishops Cleeve       | .. | .. | .. | 1                |
| Total                |    |    |    | <u>44</u>        |

## Clearance Orders.

Clearance Orders were made by the Council on the 1st. March 1956 in connection with the three areas mentioned. The Deerhurst No.2 Order was not challenged and the Minister confirmed the Order on 29th October 1956. The Owners of the dwellings comprising Clearance Areas Nos.1 and 3 lodged objections and in consequence an Inspector of the Ministry attended at the Council's offices on 3rd. July 1956 for the purpose of hearing the Council's case and the owners' objections.

Clearance Order No.1 has now received the Minister's modified confirmation, i.e., excluding the four Almshouses for which a scheme of reconstruction acceptable to the Council and to the Minister has been submitted.

Reconstruction schemes have also been submitted, to the satisfaction of the Council, for three of the four houses comprising Area No.3, and we are now awaiting the Minister's decision on these.

## Individual Unfit Houses.

The responsibility for dealing with unfit houses individually represented under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 is vested in the Local Authority.

Before the end of the year every owner and every person with a statutory interest in the 44 unfit houses had been invited to appear before the Council for this purpose. Most of the interviews took place at a special meeting of the Council called for the purpose on 22nd. November 1956. The action taken in respect of these dwellings is summarised below:-

|                                                                                                                                                   |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. No. of dwellings on which Demolition Orders were made                                                                                          | 16        |
| 2. No. of undertakings not to use for human habitation until the dwellings are made fit, in the opinion of the Local Authority, for that purpose. | 22        |
| 3. No. in which procedure was abandoned owing to the dwellings having been made fit for habitation.                                               | 3         |
| 4. No. on which action was deferred.                                                                                                              | 3         |
| Total                                                                                                                                             | <u>44</u> |

## HOUSING ACTS.

Under the Housing Acts the following figures relate:-

|                                  |    |    |     |
|----------------------------------|----|----|-----|
| Housing Inspections or re-visits | .. | .. | 574 |
|----------------------------------|----|----|-----|

## Housing Act 1936

|                                                                                            | Houses |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1.(a) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)                  | 7      |
| (b) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners (Section 11) and still in force. | 12     |
| (c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)                                                 | nil    |

## 2. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953

No. of houses closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2) .. nil.

### Repairs in the period

3. Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts .. 22

#### Defects remedied :

|                                      |    |    |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| Roofs repaired                       | .. | .. | 2  |
| Drainage systems repaired or renewed | .. | .. | 14 |
| Miscellaneous                        | .. | .. | 6  |

## 4. Public Health Acts

Number of formal notices served .. .. nil.

### Improvement Grants.

The Council has continued to encourage owners of properties to apply in appropriate cases for improvement grants. During the year 63 new cases affecting 72 properties were approved. The total number of cases approved since the Council became the Authority for dealing with these cases has risen to 102 cases affecting 174 properties, and the amount of Grants approved totals £48,772. up to the end of 1956. The results have in all instances been very satisfactory, and there is no doubt that this scheme has not only enabled properties to be brought up to a good standard, but it has been the means of retaining properties which possess features that are not present in modern houses. In addition, it has enabled accommodation to be retained and thus avoided the Council have to provide more houses for the occupants.

Year ending : 31.12.55 31.12.56

No. of houses in respect of which Improvement Grants were issued :-

|                 |    |    |
|-----------------|----|----|
| a. Improvements | 58 | 63 |
| b. Conversions  | 1  | 6  |

No. of inspections regarding Improvement Grants 430 532

### Building Byelaws

The work in connection with the Building Byelaws has continued to increase as will be seen by the number of houses erected or in course of erection :-

New Houses Completed : 31.12.55 31.12.56

|                                    |    |    |     |     |
|------------------------------------|----|----|-----|-----|
| Council Houses                     | .. | .. | 59  | 52  |
| Bishops Cleeve Housing Association | .. | .. | 60  | -   |
| Dowty Housing Association          | .. | .. | 3   | 4   |
| Private Enterprise                 | .. | .. | 326 | 365 |
| Gloucestershire County Council     | .. | .. | 5   | 4   |
| Total                              | .. | .. | 453 | 425 |

No. of houses converted to more dwellings or other buildings converted .. .. 5

| No. of houses in course of erection at :        |    |    |  | <u>31.12.55</u> | <u>31.12.56</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------|----|----|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Council                                         | .. | .. |  | 48              | 60              |
| Bishops Cleeve Housing Association              | .. |    |  | -               | 11              |
| Dowty Housing Association                       | .. |    |  | 4               | 17              |
| Private Enterprise                              | .. | .. |  | 238             | 263             |
| Total                                           | .. | .. |  | <u>290</u>      | <u>351</u>      |
|                                                 |    |    |  |                 |                 |
| Total number of plans received and considered   |    |    |  | 492             | 510             |
| No. of plans re-submitted                       | .. | .. |  | 114             | 76              |
| No. of plans withdrawn                          | .. | .. |  | 1               | 4               |
| Total considered by Committee...                | .. | .. |  | 605             | 582             |
| Total number of plans approved - permanent      |    |    |  | 542             | 545             |
| Total number of plans approved - temporary      |    |    |  | 3               | 3               |
| Total number of plans disapproved.              | .. |    |  | 60              | 34              |
| Temporary approvals renewed                     | .. | .. |  | 16              | 17              |
| Plans declared of no effect                     | .. | .. |  | -               | -               |
| Temporary Buildings removed                     | .. | .. |  | -               | 2               |
| No. of recommendations to Area Planning Officer |    |    |  | 190             | 301             |
| No. of visits to properties and sites           | .. |    |  | 2932            | 3586            |

Each plan when received is checked and acknowledged, and if there is any discrepancy and time permits, the owner's or architect's attention is drawn to this with a view to the necessary alterations being made prior to consideration by the Committee.

Every endeavour is made to inspect work at the following stages - excavation of foundations; completion of concrete foundations; dampcourse; roofing; testing of drains; installation of fittings; and completion.

In a number of cases the owners of houses have obtained loans through the Council under the Housing Act, 1949, and in such cases more frequent inspections are made, and the work is closely checked before certificates are issued for payments.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

Under this heading has been included the work in connection with milk supply, infectious diseases, water supply, nuisances, disinfection, tents, vans and sheds, factories and workshops, pollution of streams, inspection of food premises, public conveniences and sewage disposal etc. The following figures shew the activities during the year :-

| Year ending :                                     |    |    |    | <u>31.12.55</u> | <u>31.12.56</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|-----------------|-----------------|
| No. of complaints received or nuisances           |    |    |    |                 |                 |
| discovered                                        | .. | .. | .. | 97              | 70              |
| Nuisances abated                                  | .. | .. | .. | 77              | 60              |
| Complaints not justified                          | .. | .. |    | 5               | 4               |
| Informal Notices sent                             | .. | .. |    | 23              | 11              |
| Statutory Notices served                          | .. | .. |    | 2               | 5               |
| No. of visits in connection with the above items  | .. | .. | .. | 281             | 273             |
| No. of premises disinfected                       | .. | .. |    | 2               | 1               |
| No. of premises disinfested                       | .. | .. |    | 7               | 13              |
| No. of new drainage systems installed             | .. |    |    | 29              | 55              |
| Visits to new drainage systems..                  | .. |    |    | 149             | 311             |
| No of visits to public conveniences               | .. |    |    | 50              | 51              |
| Infectious disease visits                         | .. | .. |    | 22              | 28              |
| No. of visits in connection with street numbering | .. | .. | .. |                 | 276             |

# INSPECTION OF FOODS.

The following foodstuffs have been condemned :-

|                    |    | cwts. | crs. | lbs. | ozs. |
|--------------------|----|-------|------|------|------|
| Canned fish        | .. | -     | -    | 9    | 10   |
| Canned meat        | .. | 1     | -    | 22   | 8    |
| Canned fruit juice | .. | -     | 1    | 8    | 15   |
| Soups              | .. | -     | -    | 6    | 12½  |
| Preserves          | .. | -     | 1    | 4    | 8    |
| Cheese             | .. | -     | -    | 1    | 8    |
| Tomatoes           | .. | 1     | -    | 25   | 13½  |
| Cereal             | .. | -     | -    | 4    | 1    |
| Cocoa              | .. | -     | -    | 1    | 8    |
| Canned Fruit       | .  | 10    | 3    | 15   | 11¾  |
| Canned vegetables  | .. | 1     | -    | 19   | 2½   |
| Total              | .. | 15    | 0    | 16   | 2¼   |

Tinned Milk .. 114 pints.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part :-

|                                                                                                  | Cattle<br>Excluding<br>Cows | Cows  | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs  | Horses |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|--------|-----------------------|-------|--------|
| Number killed                                                                                    | 166                         | 12    | 42     | 830                   | 140   | nil    |
| Number inspected                                                                                 | 166                         | 12    | 42     | 830                   | 140   | nil    |
| <u>All diseases except<br/>Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerchi</u>                                    |                             |       |        |                       |       |        |
| Whole carcasses condemned                                                                        | 1                           | 1     | 1      | 5                     | 1     | -      |
| Carcases of which some part or<br>organ was condemned.                                           | 8                           | -     | -      | 2                     | 3     | -      |
| Percentage of number inspected<br>affected with disease other<br>than tuberculosis & cysticerchi | 5.42%                       | 8.33% | 2.38%  | 0.84%                 | 2.85% | -      |
| <u>Tuberculosis only :</u>                                                                       |                             |       |        |                       |       |        |
| Whole carcasses condemned                                                                        | -                           | -     | -      | -                     | -     | -      |
| Carcases of which some part or<br>organ was condemned                                            | 3                           | -     | -      | -                     | 2     | -      |
| Percentage of number inspected<br>affected with tuberculosis.                                    | 1.8%                        | -     | -      | -                     | 1.43% | -      |
| <u>Cysticercosis</u>                                                                             |                             |       |        |                       |       |        |
| Carcases of which some part or<br>organ was condemned.                                           | -                           | -     | -      | -                     | -     | -      |
| Generalised and totally<br>condemned.                                                            | -                           | -     | -      | -                     | -     | -      |

Total amount meat condemned = 15 cwt.

## Methods of Disposal of Condemned Food.

Condemned food is disposed of as follows :-

- a. By burial in Lime.
- b. In suitable cases by disposal to knackers' yards by arrangement with the adjoining Public Health Authority

-----

|                                                                       |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| No. of Special Examinations of a Stock or Consignment of food .. .. . | none |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------|

-----

## Food Premises

The number of food premises in the District is as follows :-

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| Bakers .. .. .          | 6  |
| Butchers .. .. .        | 10 |
| Cafes .. .. .           | 10 |
| Confectioners .. .. .   | 2  |
| Fishmongers .. .. .     | 1  |
| General Stores .. .. .  | 37 |
| Greengrocers .. .. .    | 6  |
| Grocers .. .. .         | 8  |
| Sweet Retailers .. .. . | 2  |
| Hotels .. .. .          | 7  |
| Public Houses .. .. .   | 41 |

## Food and Drugs Act, 1955 (Section 16(1) )

|                                                                                             |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| No. of premises registered for the sale and storage of ice cream .. .. .                    | 64 |
| No. of applications considered and licences issued during the year .. .. .                  | 6  |
| No. of premises registered for the preparation of preserved foods intended for sale .. .. . | 4  |

## Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 & 1954

|                                                                                                                         |   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| No. of dairies registered .. .. .                                                                                       | 9 |
| No. of Dealers licences issued during the year authorising the use of the Special Designation Tuberculin Tested .. .. . | 2 |
| No. of Supplementary Licences issued during the year authorising the use of the Special Designation                     |   |
| (a) Tuberculin Tested .. .. .                                                                                           | 7 |
| (b) Pasteurised .. .. .                                                                                                 | 9 |

-----

|                                                                        |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Total No. of visits in connection with the Food and Drugs Acts .. .. . | 234 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|

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## Tents, Vans and Sheds

The following figures relate to the activities, in this section during the year :-

|                                                     | Year ending : | <u>31.12.55</u> | <u>31.12.56</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| No. of new applications for licences received .. .. |               | 67              | 83              |
| No. of new applications approved ..                 |               | 57              | 66              |
| No. of new applications disapproved..               |               | 9               | 17              |
| No. of previous licences renewed ..                 |               | 63              | 103             |
| No. of renewal applications disapproved             |               | -               | 2               |
| No. of visits to sites .. ..                        |               | 305             | 496             |

## Factories Act, 1937

|                                                         |     |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|
| No. of informal notices served ..                       | nil | 1  |
| No. of unsuitable sanitary conveniences rectified .. .. | 1   | 1  |
| No. of visits to factories ..                           | 76  | 98 |

## Sewage Disposal.

During the year the scheme for providing sewers and sewage disposal system for the village of Birdlip was completed.

A similar scheme for the village of Great Washbourne was also completed.

Samples of sewage effluents were taken periodically at the Council's sewerage works, and 38 samples were submitted for analysis.

|                                                |       |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|
| No. of visits to Sewage Disposal Works etc. .. | 1317. |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|

## Water Supplies.

The Link Main from Stoke Orchard to Bishops Cleeve was completed during the year.

During the year the number of samples submitted from the Council's supply totalled 22, and from private sources 4.

The number of new connections made to the mains during the year totalled 436, and of these 112 connections were made to the Council's mains, 321 to the Cheltenham Corporation's mains, and 3 to the Gloucester City mains.

|                                          |     |
|------------------------------------------|-----|
| No. of visits to supplies, mains etc. .. | 150 |
|------------------------------------------|-----|

The total length of cast iron and asbestos distributor mains owned by the Council of diameters from 2 - 9 inches is approximately 104 miles. In addition there are approximately 11½ miles of galvanised, copper and asbestos pipes of between ¾" and 2" diameter, and 21½ miles of supply and pumping mains from 3 to 6 inches in diameter.

## Refuse and Salvage.

Regular collections of house refuse are made throughout the District. Weekly collections are made in the built up areas, fortnightly in the villages, and monthly in the more remote and scattered area.

The controlled method of tipping is undertaken, and refuse is tipped at Shurdington, Snowhill, Winchcombe, Prestbury, and Twynning.

Refuse is collected weekly in the Parishes of Bishops Cleeve, Leckhampton, Prestbury, part Up Hatherley, and Winchcombe. Fortnightly collections are made in the remaining Parishes of the District, with the exception of Alstone, Teddington, Charlton Abbots, Hawling, Elmstone Hardwicke, Leigh, Oxenton, Woolstone and Twynning, which are collected monthly.

No. of visits to tips etc .. 299.

Vehicles : 3 Shelvoke & Drewry 16/20 cu.yd. fore & aft tippers  
1 Bedford Compressmore 18/20 cu.yd.

| Year ending :                                 | <u>31.12.53</u> | <u>31.12.54</u> | <u>31.12.55</u> | <u>31.12.56</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| No. of Dwellings ..                           | 6,854           | 7,379           | 7,826           | 8,242           |
| Quantity of refuse collected (approx. cu.yds) | 31,000          | 32,000          | 33,000          | 36,000          |
| Distance travelled by vehicles (miles)        | 32,000          | 34,400          | 36,445          | 37,318          |

The cost of collection steadily mounts, and it will be seen that between December, 1953 and December, 1956, the number of properties from which refuse is collected has increased by nearly 1,400 involving an increased mileage of 5,300. This together with increased costs in wages, repairs, etc., is responsible for the overall increase in costs.

## PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY.

|                                  |    |    |     |
|----------------------------------|----|----|-----|
| No. of informal notices served.. | .. | .. | 1   |
| No. of visits ..                 | .. | .. | 112 |

## PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928

|                                              |    |     |
|----------------------------------------------|----|-----|
| No. of informal notices served ..            | .. | 8   |
| No. of licences issued to store petroleum .. | .. | 83  |
| No. of visits ..                             | .. | 121 |

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The arrangements whereby the Pest Operator deals with Tewkesbury Borough and the Cheltenham Rural District continues to operate in a very satisfactory manner.

The visits and treatments made during the year, by the Pest Operator are detailed overleaf.

|  | No. of<br>Treatment,<br><u>to premises</u> | No. of<br><u>visits</u> | No. of premises<br>inspected (incl-<br>uding clearing<br><u>of the baits.</u> |
|--|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|--|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                    |            |             |            |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Cheltenham R.D.C. Premises                         | 61         | 176         | 89         |
| Other premises in the<br>Cheltenham Rural District | 325        | 930         | 215        |
| Premises in Tewkesbury<br>Borough                  | 85         | 253         | 38         |
|                                                    | <u>471</u> | <u>1359</u> | <u>342</u> |

Total number of complaints received and visited : 42

In addition to the above work, sewerage systems were treated as follows :-

During April, the systems at Bishops Cleeve, Prestbury and Winchcombe were treated, and only minor infestations were recorded in two or three manholes in each parish. The sewers at Shurdington were found to be clear.

In October, the sewers at Bishops Cleeve, Prestbury and Winchcombe were test baited and found to be clear. This was the first occasion since the Council undertook Pest Destruction in 1949 that no treatment was necessary, and it is an indication of the success of the method of treatment.

On three occasions during the year treatment was necessary to the sewers on the new private enterprise housing estates at Warden Hill and Woodlands, Leckhampton.

Tewkesbury Sewers were treated during April and October.

#### LOANS FOR HOUSE PURCHASE

This is another heading under which there is increased activity. The work involved is first in checking the plans and specifications prior to loan sanction, and afterwards inspection of the work to see that it is satisfactory, and certifying payment at the appropriate stages.

During the year advances were made in 31 cases, these totalling £42,630; the total advances to the end of 1956 was 174, the amount loaned being £257,957. These figures do not include those relating to the Bishops Cleeve Housing Association and the Dowty Housing Association.

#### S U M M A R Y .

The foregoing report deals with the principal sections but during the year there were other fields of activity such as dangerous structures, Milk and Dairies Regulations, Street Numbering, inspection of housing sites etc. These have entailed many visits and inspections.

The summary of the visits, apart from the maintenance of the Council's Water Supplies or the Clerk of Works on Housing, Water or Sewerage schemes is as follows :-

| for the year :                    |    |    | <u>1954</u>  | <u>1955</u>  | <u>1956</u>  |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Temporary Housing ..              | .. | .. | 311          | 424          | 479          |
| Council House Repairs ..          | .. | .. | 2856         | 2908         | 3940         |
| Housing Act Inspections ..        | .. | .. | 513          | 794          | 574          |
| Improvement Grants. ..            | .. | .. | 78           | 430          | 532          |
| Building Byelaws. ..              | .. | .. | 2430         | 2932         | 3586         |
| <u>Public Health</u>              |    |    |              |              |              |
| Nuisances, Statutory Notices etc. |    |    | 256          | 281          | 273          |
| New Drainage Systems ..           | .. | .. | 247          | 149          | 311          |
| Public Conveniences ..            | .. | .. | 33           | 50           | 51           |
| Infectious diseases ..            | .. | .. | 35           | 22           | 28           |
| Street Numbering ..               | .. | .. | 5            | 37           | 276          |
| Food and Drugs Acts, ..           | .. | .. | 264          | 241          | 234          |
| Tents, Vans & Sheds, etc. ..      | .. | .. | 191          | 305          | 496          |
| Factories and Workshops Act. ..   | .. | .. | 71           | 76           | 98           |
| Sewage Disposal Works etc. ...    | .. | .. | 815          | 761          | 1317         |
| Water Supplies ..                 | .. | .. | 113          | 128          | 150          |
| Refuse and Salvage. ..            | .. | .. | 253          | 258          | 299          |
| Public Rights of Way ..           | .. | .. | 90           | 89           | 112          |
| Petroleum Act, 1928 ..            | .. | .. | 93           | 107          | 121          |
| Pest Destruction ..               | .. | .. | 1910         | 1986         | 1701         |
| Miscellaneous visits. ..          | .. | .. | 150          | 356          | 407          |
| Attendance at Meetings ..         | .. | .. | 93           | 85           | 77           |
|                                   |    |    | <u>10807</u> | <u>12419</u> | <u>15062</u> |

No. of communications dispatched from the office during the year .. .. 4593

As will be seen from the above, the year has again been one of increased activity, and I wish to thank all members of the Council's staff for the good work they have done during the year, and for the friendly and close co-operation which has prevailed throughout with all departments.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the Members of the Council for the kindness and consideration which they have afforded when dealing with the work of the Department.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.H. ROSSER

Public Health Inspector  
and Surveyor.

